New Nouveau Brunswick CANADA

News Release

Communications New Brunswick

Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour / N.B. Human Rights Commission

Two new members named to Human Rights Commission (07/10/09)

NB 1296

Oct. 9, 2007

FREDERICTON (CNB) - Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour Minister Ed Doherty today announced the appointments of Aloke Chatterjee and Audrey Lampert as the newest members of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission.

"I am confident the commission will benefit greatly from the extensive knowledge and experience of Mr. Chatterjee and Ms. Lampert," said Doherty, who is also the Minister responsible for the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission."These individuals have a rich history of community involvement and are long-time human rights advocates."

Commission Chair Dr. Gordon Porter welcomed the appointment of the new members, adding they will assist the Human Rights Commission in the important work it does in New Brunswick.

"We not only deal with complaints of discrimination, but we also provide educational opportunities in an attempt to prevent discrimination," Porter said. "These efforts support the government's self sufficiency agenda that includes welcoming people from around the world to our province."

Chatterjee is a professor at the University of New Brunswick (UNB) in Fredericton and has been active throughout his career in disability advocacy and education among other human rights issues. He serves on UNB's Faculty Group on Disability Issues and on the Divisional Board of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) in New Brunswick. He is also involved with the CNIB on a national level. Chatterjee holds a Master of Laws from Harvard University.

Lampert is the current vice-principal of Queen Elizabeth School in Moncton. She has served as principal, vice-principal, teacher and instructor for many years in School District 2 as well as the New Brunswick Community College. Lampert has participated in several public speaking engagements focusing on education and human rights issues, and has been an active volunteer for organizations including Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG), the Coalition Against Abusive Relationships and the Greater Moncton Literacy Advisory Board.

The other current members of the commission are Arthur Harquail of Edmundston; René Landry of Moncton; Muriel Morisset of Tracadie-Sheila; Emil Olsen of Quispamsis, and Mary Jane Ward of Red Bank.

The New Brunswick Human Rights Commission administers the provincial *Human Rights Act*, which

prohibits discrimination and harassment based on race, colour, national origin, place of origin, ancestry, religion, age, physical or mental disability, marital status, social condition, political belief or activity, sexual orientation and sex, including pregnancy. The act applies to all employers, public services and housing, except those that fall under federal jurisdiction.

For more information about the Human Rights Commission, visit the website at: http://www.gnb.ca/hrc-cdp/e/index.htm.

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07/10/09

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